

The Southeast News

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

VOLUME IX, NUMBER 8

JUNE 1961



ALLAN G. SAUNDERS

Allan G. Saunders Leaving Convention

Allan G. Saunders, newly elected moderator of the Southeast Convention, has submitted his resignation to the Convention, to take effect immediately, because he is moving from the area in June.

Mr. Saunders has been promoted to a position of major importance by the company he serves. Mr. and Mrs. Saunders and their three sons will be moving to Indianapolis, Ind., in June.

Members of Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, they formerly were members of Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga. Mr. Saunders has been active in laymen's work in the Convention. Mrs. Saunders has been serving as secretary for the Pilgrim Church office.

Robert Saunders, now a student at Elon College, is a former PF Convention officer. "Chip" recently was elected PF Faith Commission chairman.

The Saunders family will be greatly missed from our midst.

United Church General Synod To Hold Important Sessions At Philadelphia

Final steps in the formation of the United Church of Christ will be taken in Philadelphia on Independence Day when its constitution will be declared in force.

The climax of 21 years of negotiation between the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the General Council of the Congregational Christian churches will come at 11 a. m., July 4, during the United Church's Third General Synod meeting scheduled for July 3-7.

Voting on the constitution has been going on since last July in the 5,458 Congregational Christian churches and the 33 regional synods of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. The document must be approved by two-thirds of the Congregational Christian churches voting and two-thirds of the Evangelical and Reformed synods.

Voting has been overwhelmingly in favor of the constitution. All but one of the E & R synods have approved the document. With 65 per cent of the CC churches on record, the vote now stands at 92 per cent in favor.

In the Southeast Convention at last report 61 churches have voted in favor, 13 have voted against, and 2 have chosen to abstain from voting.

Once the constitution is declared in force, delegates to the Synod will elect a president, secretary, and treasurer; approve a budget for 1962-63; decide on the location of permanent headquarters; and review all phases of the work of the church.

Election of officers will take place Wednesday afternoon, July 5. Action on proposals for a permanent headquarters will come on Thursday morning.

Overseas operations of the United Church will be the subject of a special presentation Monday evening, July 3. The focus will be on newly-appointed

missionaries of the Board for World Ministries, which will combine the activities of the Board of International Missions (Evangelical and Reformed) and the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (CC) and the overseas emergency relief committees for both denominations.

A new musical morality play, "The Last Word," will be presented Tuesday evening, July 4, by the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries. With book by James Broughton and music by Mildred Kayden, the play deals with man's last minutes before extermination by bombs. The theological implications will be discussed by the Rev. Dr. Roger Shinn, Professor of Applied Christianity, Union Theological Seminary, New York City, and the Rev. Dr. Davie Napier, Professor of Old Testament at Yale University Divinity School.

The Rev. Dr. Douglas Horton, dean emeritus of Harvard Divinity School, will deliver the sermon at the Synodical service of Holy Communion to be held Wednesday night, July 5. The co-presidents of the United Church, the Rev. Dr. Fred Hoskins and the Rev. Dr. James E. Wagner, will participate in the service.

The meeting at the Bellevue Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, will begin at 11 a. m. on July 3. It will conclude on Friday, July 7, with installation of officers and a service of worship.

The United Church General Synod will be preceded by simultaneous meetings of the General Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the biennial meeting of the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches. From June 29 through July 2 they will conduct necessary business preparatory to the adoption of the constitution of the United Church. Delegates from the conventions will attend.

New Montgomery Church Holds Covenant Sunday

Pentecost Sunday, May 21, 1961, will live in the history of the United Congregational Church of Montgomery as "Covenant Sunday."

The new congregation, which held its first meeting in the Millard Fuller home on February 11th, is currently meeting in the Administration Building at Huntingdon College. The Covenant Service held at 11:00 A. M. was led by Dr. A. R. Van Cleave, dean of the Southern Union College at Wadley, and pastor of the Wadley Congregational Christian Church.

With the adoption of a charter, the charter membership privileges will remain open for a year.

The congregation will be affiliated with the United Church of Christ, the new denomination composed of members of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and the Congregational Christian Churches.

The first meeting of the group last February was called by Millard Fuller, young Montgomery attorney who has been active in the Congregational Christian Churches for several years. A native of Lanett, Fuller is a graduate of Auburn University and the law school of the University of Alabama. He is a partner in the Heart of Dixie Products Company (a firm which supplies products for fund raising purposes to organizations throughout the nation) and a partner in the law firm of Dees and Fuller, formed last September.

The first meeting of the group as a congregation was on February 19th. Mrs. Douglas Cole taught a Sunday School class for the nine people present. Officers of the congregation reported on activities and the church activities were launched. Guest speakers for the worship services have included a number of prominent laymen and ministers from several denominations. By the end of the first month, the treasury had a balance of \$83.52.

As the congregation began to grow, Congregational Christian churches of Central and East Alabama began sending support in several forms, chiefly financial. The Central and East Alabama Laymen's Fellowship was the first to respond, followed by gifts from Lanett, Langdale, Elder of Dadeville, New Harmony of Lineville, and East Tallassee.

Officers and committee chairmen currently serving include Millard Fuller,



RUFUS G. OBRECHT

Officers Elected By Church Builder's Club

Rufus G. Obrecht of Chattanooga, Tennessee, was re-elected president of the Church Builder's Club at its annual meeting held in connection with the Southeast Convention in Knoxville.

Rev. W. M. McCullars, pastor of the Oak Grove Church, Pine Mountain, Ga., was re-elected vice-president and Miss Ellen Hull, Langdale, Alabama, was returned to the position of secretary.

W. P. Ingram, Birmingham, Ala., former president of the Churchmen's Fellowship, was voted to the office of treasurer.

Rev. J. Kermit Harris, pastor of Fredonia Church, Barnesville, Ga., Mrs. G. F. Logan, former president of the Women's Fellowship, Tallassee, Ala., and Rev. A. Ray Meserve, pastor First Church, Knoxville, were elected trustees of the club in the class of 1964.

Rev. Clyde C. Flannery will be the guest minister for the Special Services at the Garden City, Ala., Church the week of July 30-August 4.

moderator; Mary Ann Pemberton, clerk; J. Lewis Davis, treasurer; Mrs. Douglas Cole, Sunday School superintendent. Committee chairmen include: pulpit, Grover C. Dick; visitation, Mrs. Edward Ward; publicity, Mary Ann Pemberton; housing and building, Dr. Paul Nesbitt; program, Mrs. Frances Dunson; music, Mrs. Millard Fuller.

The Covenant Service was concluded with the observance of the Lord's Supper, led by Dr. Van Cleave.

Southern Union College Commencement Exercises

Eighteen young people received the Associate of Arts degree at the 1961 commencement exercises of The Southern Union College held on Sunday, June 4th.

Honored with citations for meritorious service by the college were Rev. and Mrs. Carl J. Landes, Wadley, Ala., and Dr. Emily S. Dexter, Decatur, Ga., a member of the Board of Trustees.

Prof. and Mrs. Landes are leaving the college in June to accept a new position with the CC and E & R churches in the North Carolina and Virginia area.

The Rev. Mr. Lincoln Brown Wirt, minister of the First Congregational Church, Memphis, Tenn., delivered the baccalaureate sermon on Sunday morning.

Miss Carol Lurlene Tapley was the valedictorian of the class. Rolf Cole Maris, son of a Congregational Christian minister, West Terre Haute, Ind., was the salutatorian.

Dr. Houston Cole, president of Jacksonville State College, Jacksonville, Alabama, delivered the commencement address.

HERE AND THERE

Elon College has honored the Southeast Convention and its superintendent, Rev. James H. Lightbourne Jr., by conferring on Mr. Lightbourne the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity during its commencement exercises on May 29th.

Both Mr. Lightbourne's grandfather, Dr. A. W. Lightbourne, and his father, Dr. James H. Lightbourne Sr., were similarly honored by Elon College. Supt. Lightbourne is a graduate of Elon College.

* * * *

Mr. John Wilder, a member of the Langdale Church and presently serving the Roanoke, Forest Home Church, has been called as minister of the Mt. Olive Church, Tallassee, Alabama. Mr. and Mrs. Wilder and daughter will move to Mt. Olive this summer.

* * * *

Dr. Fred Hoskins, minister of the General Council, has requested Rev. Arnold Slater to be one of the eight deacons to participate in the celebration of the Holy Communion at the General Council in Philadelphia on June 29th. Mr. Slater is pastor of Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga.

Langdale Congregational Christian Church

By Douglas Wasson

Churches are known for many specialties. Some have magnificent buildings, others have splendid organs, and still others have a broad scope of mission interests.

Langdale Congregational Christian Church has a claim to fame as a producer of ministers. Since the present church was organized in 1930, eight men have been recommended to the East Alabama Association as candidates for the ministry, and prospects are bright for others.

The most recent candidate, 16-year-old Charles Robert Kinney, declared his intentions to preach the gospel only two weeks ago.

Another member, currently active in both affairs at Langdale and as a supply pastor — John W. Wilder — recently announced his acceptance of a call to Mt. Olive Congregational Christian Church, Tallassee, and the beginning of a full-time ministry.

Others from Langdale, serving in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Alabama, include Awbrey Manley, E. S. Fetner, Lynnwood Hubbard, Winfred Walters, Howard Morris, and Bernice Spivey.

When you know the friendly, dynamic Langdale people, such a record is not surprising. With a membership of 280, the current budget is a healthy \$22,600, including a far-sighted concern for missions. Church school enrollment is 187 and the religious education leaders just concluded one of the most successful — and largest — Vacation Bible Schools in many years.

The church had its beginnings back in 1893 when the Rev. T. H. Elder organized a Christian church in Langdale, then known as Chattahoochee Mills. The church met once a month in Union Chapel, sharing the building with the Baptists once a month and the Methodists twice a month.

The church functioned until 1912 and had many of the leading Christian Connection ministers in leadership. These include, in addition to founder Elder, G. W. Hunt, E. W. Carter, and G. O. Langford. The early records are ripe with illustrations of early church problems — usually a discussion of those guilty of wrong doing and their degree — or lack of — repentance.

Apparently a lack of space and leadership caused the downfall of the first congregation and it ceased to exist as an organized church.

In 1922, under the leadership of H.

M. Gray, then pastor at Lanett, a small group tried again to organize a church but were unsuccessful.

In 1930, a migration of Christian Church families to the Valley brought a core of leadership and the church was organized under the leadership of the Rev. C. D. Dollar. A revival was held in the home of Grady Maddox and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Ferguson, and the church was organized with 15 members. H. M. Gray was called as minister and the congregation met in the basement of the mill gymnasium until the church was built.

The church began to grow and prosper. In 1935, in the midst of the depression, lots were obtained and a church building begun. The discussion over the locale of the church building was often furious and included a fist fight between one trustee and two deacons! These all apologized, according to the church history, and asked forgiveness. The church was completed on its present site in 1938. The first pastor, Mr. Gray, resigned, and was replaced by beloved John D. Dollar, who served until 1946. "Brother Dollar" led the church into full-time services and a strengthened financial program.

Ministers since 1946 have included the Rev. Melvin Dollar (1946-1950), the Rev. Clyde C. Flannery (1950-'52), the Rev. A. Goff Bedford (1952-'55), and the Rev. Carroll W. Lewis (1955-1960). A number of interim ministers have also given strong leadership to the church.

Leadership at present includes: Odell Yancey, moderator, and Miss Ellen Hull, clerk and secretary. Deacons are Gene Brooke, chairman, Hoyt Bradford, Clifford Smith, Raymond Hull, John D. Taylor, Dorsey Moon, Odell Yancey, Jabus Williamson, and Grady Maddox. Maddox has been a deacon since 1930.

Alton Davis is chairman of the Board of Trustees and Mrs. Eula Brum-below is chairman of the deaconesses. Mrs. Willie Sides is church treasurer and R. A. Norred is financial secretary.

On the church staff, Larry Adcock is choir director and song leader; Randall Sims is organist, with Mrs. Bessie Lee Speir as assistant organist. Pianists include Martha Lauderdale, Ann Williamson, Mrs. Randall Sims, and Tony Dollar.

D. O'Neal Mason is superintendent of the Sunday School. Leon Lee is pre-

sident of the Churchmen's Fellowship, Mrs. D. O. Mason is head of the Women's Fellowship, and Ann Williamson is president of the Pilgrim Fellowship, the youth organization.

The church continually plays a significant role in the denominational program. Miss Ellen Hull is currently president of the Alabama Women's Fellowship, is secretary-treasurer-elect of the six-state convention women's organization. Odell Yancey is the president of the Churchmen's Fellowship for the same area. Others hold posts of responsibility in the associational and regional activities of the church.

As a demonstration of faith in the future, the church has a growing building fund (now about \$12,000.00) which will be used for additional Sunday School space soon. The equipment is in top order and the sanctuary is one of the most beautiful in the Valley.

Want to get something done in your church? Then talk to those folks at Langdale. With them, doing things creatively is a wonderful habit.

Here And There

Blackwoods Church, Headland, Ala., will observe Homecoming on June 25. Rev. Floyd Carmack, LaGrange, Ga., will be the guest speaker for the annual revival, June 25-30.

* * * *

Miss Melissa Kelly, LaGrange, Ga., and Miss Susan Looser, Lanett, Ala. (Huguley Church), both students at Southern Union College, will be the Student Summer Service workers for the convention this summer.

* * * *

Rev. Mack Welch, pastor of the CC church in Reidsville, N. C., is the guest speaker for the revival services at the Lanett church the week of June 18th.

* * * *

Members of Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, were guests of the Birmingham Barons at a baseball game with Nashville on June 2nd.

Summer Conference Dates

Kentucky - Tennessee Junior High, Camp Ozone, June 11-17

Kentucky - Tennessee Senior High, Camp Cumberland, June 25-July 1
Alabama-N. W. Florida Senior High, Southern Union College, July 30-August 5

Alabama-N. W. Florida Junior High, Southern Union College, August 6-12

Georgia-South Carolina Summer Conference, Roosevelt State Park, August 13-19

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Superintendent's Corner

It is with heavy hearts that the vast majority of the white church people of the south have viewed the recent instances of mob violence in connection with racial demonstrations. The church people are further sobered by the failure of so many persons in positions of importance to condemn the violence.

A leading southern editor has raised questions that should disturb us deeply. He asks, "Where are the churches? What have they to say?" It is a proper question.

Can we as Christians stand silently by while mobs take action as they see fit and while proper authorities fail to provide equal protection for all citizens? The answer should be an emphatic "No!" As Christians we stand for law and order and for equal protection for all.

Moreover, even though southern church members have honest differences of opinion over racial segregation, they know in their hearts that many of the persons, white and Negro, who demonstrate against segregation do so on the basis of their Christian convictions. As fellow Christians we must honor their convictions and support their right to express them so long as they do so in a peaceful and orderly manner.

The time is coming — indeed, it is already here—when the white churches of the south no longer can conscientiously avoid their Christian responsibility to themselves and to the society and communities in which they exist. The voice of the church must be heard. Let it speak clearly and in Christian love.

Korean And Syrian Leaders Will Visit Summer Camps

Mr. Moon Kyu Kang will be the mission national leader at the Kentucky-Tennessee Summer Conferences. Mr. Zakhour Issa Youssef will be the similar leader at the Georgia-South Carolina and Alabama-N. W. Florida summer conferences. Information concerning each of them is given below.

Zakhour Issa Youssef

Mr. Zakhour Issa Youssef was born in Syria twenty-three years ago and has lived most of his life there except for short periods in Lebanon, Greece, and Italy, and his past five years in the United States. He was brought up in a Christian Orthodox home, but became a member of the Mennonite Church in 1957, having become acquainted with this church during his residence for a time in California.

As an undergraduate at Detroit Institute of Technology and Wayne University, Mr. Youssef directed his studies in the field of chemistry. Now, as a graduate student at Wayne, he is majoring in clinical psychology. He has worked as a dry goods salesman, factory worker, newspaper representative, and is now on the research staff at the University. Mr. Youssef is aware of the work of the church in Syria and Lebanon and comes prepared to share his knowledge with our summer camp and conference members. Because of his experience as a Sunday School teacher in Syria he is interested in being a Bible study leader. He also enjoys being a recreation leader and has a great appreciation for music.

Moon Kyu Kang

Mr. Moon Kyu Kang was born in a small Korean town in 1931 but grew up in a city in central Korea and received his education (B. A. in sociology) at the National University. As the son of a Presbyterian church elder he has been an active church member, singing in the choir, teaching Sunday School, and, more recently, being the leader of the high school youth camp.

After graduating from college, Mr. Kang received training in YMCA student work and since 1955 has been active in the Student Christian Movement. As a "Y" secretary he was responsible for organizing summer camps and conferences, leadership training of newly elected student officers in campus associations, and compiling college level Bible study courses. In 1960, he represented Korea at meetings sponsored by the World Student Christian Federation in Strasborg, France, and in Athens, Greece.

HERE AND THERE

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP RETREATS

July 14-15 — Georgia-South Carolina, Perry, Ga.

July 28-29 — Alabama-N. W. Florida, Southern Union College

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Among the ladies from the Southeast Convention Women's Fellowship attending a south-wide leadership workshop at Franklinton Center, Bricks, N. C., were Mrs. Edward L. Askren, Atlanta, Mrs. Clarence W. Baldwin, Birmingham, Mrs. John C. Fralic, Tallahassee, Mrs. J. C. Harris, Decatur, Ga., Mrs. Rufus G. Obrecht, Chattanooga, Mrs. Claude Pendergrass, Hixson, Tenn., Mrs. Marrell Rhodes, East Tallahassee, Mrs. William H. Shelton, Daisy, Tenn., Mrs. J. F. Stinecipher, Chattanooga, Mrs. Walter Williams, LaGrange, Mrs. A. D. Harry, Lanett, was one of the leaders at the workshop.

* * * *

The United Church in Huntsville, Ala., opened its charter to receive into membership those wishing to be officially a part of this new church project on Sunday, June 11th. Dr. Guy L. Colbert, pastor-at-large of the North Alabama Association, participated in the service. Rev. W. Raymond Berry is the pastor.

Superintendent's Schedule

June 9-11 — Churchmen's Fellowship Retreat, Southern Union College

June 11 — Mountain Creek (Ala.) Union Church (Ordination Service), Thorsby, Ala., Church Meeting

June 13-14 — Annual Meeting, Convention of the South, Talladega College

June 18 — Evarts, Kentucky

June 25 — Charleston, S. C.

June 28-July 7 — General Council and General Synod, Philadelphia

sored by the World Student Christian Federation in Strasborg, France, and in Athens, Greece.

Here in the States Mr. Kang is enrolled in the program of Advanced Religious Studies at Union Theological Seminary in New York. He has worked with youth here under the auspices of the YMCA. As a young church leader with a good command of English, he is able to convey, especially to small groups of young people, his vital interest in the ecumenical church, the task and mission of the Asian younger church, and the future of the Christian church in Korea.

People . . .

Lanett Church Sponsors Mission Medical Student

We believe our prayers are being answered for the "Moving Forward" for our Lord.

Our church is putting Mr. Jorge Valentim, a young convert of our mission station in Angola, Africa, through medical school to enable him to fulfill his ambition to be a Christian doctor to his people.

We have two new Sunday School classes. One for the younger married people, those who have not reached age 33. We appreciate Bill Hodnett's adding to his many jobs and duties he already has by accepting the responsibility of teacher for this class. One class is for young adults out of high school but not yet married. We appreciate our pastor, Rev. John D. Schofield, although overloaded in work, as he shows us his desire to follow Christ's example to be a teacher, as well as a preacher, as he assumes the teaching of this class. We know these classes cannot be held back with such a good start.

Two new prayer groups have been formed. Again Bill Hodnett and one of our deacons, Mr. Woody Seymour, are responsible.

At Bill's suggestion, a prayer-breakfast. We meet at 5:30 a. m. to eat and promptly at 6:00 we go upstairs to the Chapel for prayer. It is something precious to arise early in the morning to fellowship with other Christians and pray.

At Mr. Seymour's suggestion, the meeting is held Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a. m. to meet in the Chapel for prayer. This, too, has been bringing a wonderful spirit of fellowship and prayer.

A prayer box was made and the words of our theme taken from Jeremiah 33:3, "Call unto Me and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not", was printed on the outside. People write their prayer requests on a card taken from pew card-holders and drop them into this prayer box. These requests are read at the beginning of these prayer meetings. This way we pray for others. These two prayer groups are in addition to our regular prayer meeting and Bible study held on Wednesday nights at 7:30 p. m., and

Churches . . .

Deer Lodge Fellowships Report Varied Activities

The Deer Lodge Pilgrim Fellowship and the Women's Fellowship are cleaning up the ground near the church building to make a summer playground. This especially will be needed since the burning of the Deer Lodge grammar school recently.

Our PF is proud that Helen Copas was elected chairman of the Fellowship Commission at the SEC PF/YF.

Our new officers are: president, Dennis Adkins; vice-president, Brenda Morgan; secretary, Helen Copas; treasurer, Leta Adkins; Faith Commission, Steve Ivy; Action Commission, Shirley Potter; Fellowship Commission, Doris Tompkins.

Our vice-president, Brenda Borgan, was chosen to go to the 4th Club Congress as Senator from Morgan County, along with four others. She reported having a wonderful time.

Everyone at Deer Lodge is very busy getting ready for our revival to be held in the Congregational Christian Church May 21st through May 27th. Rev. Robert Helms, a Union Seminary student who is serving his one year internship at the Presbyterian Church in Lancing, Tenn., will be the guest preacher.

The Women's Fellowship has given a gift a day for a week to eleven people during the winter.

Four young people attended the SEC PF/YF at Birmingham. We had to arise at 2:15 a. m. (EST) in order to get to the meeting on time.

Helen Copas, Church Reporter

we understand Rev. Schofield is planning to begin another prayer group for our young people — young and younger — when school is out.

If you have special requests for prayer, why don't you let us know?

Honorable mention: Our young people are beginning to "shine" under the leadership of Mrs. Davis Holman, PF sponsor, and Mrs. Bill Hodnett and Mrs. Frank Moon Jr., PF sponsors. In service for our Lord they are really at work and our young people are truly responding. Joan Boggs, president, Senior PF, won second place in the convention-wide essay contest on the subject "What Summer Camp Means To Me". The programs our young people present are really first-rate, too.

Dahlia Holley, Reporter

Events . . .

Elder Church Forms Churchmen's Fellowship

The men of Elder Church met recently and organized a Churchmen's Fellowship. Officers were elected as follows: president, Wayne Washburn; vice-president, Barrett Ingram; secretary, Jake Young.

A project of the Women's Fellowship that is proving very interesting is their adoption of several old people at one of the nursing homes in Dadeville. Each woman was given a name of an old person, either a man or woman, who doesn't have many visitors. Most of them are without close relatives. They are remembered all along with small gifts, letters and cards, and visits.

The Pilgrim Fellowship has for the past year been putting emphasis on more interesting and better programs for their meetings.

The church voted in favor of accepting the proposed Constitution of the United Church. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Woodroe Washburn, Reporter

Dear Friends of the Southeast Convention:

I want to thank each and everyone of you for the beautiful punch bowl and glasses which you presented to me at the 1961 Southeast Convention at Knoxville. It is greatly appreciated and adds that nice extra touch to any "special" gathering. I shall think of you when I use it and many times in between.

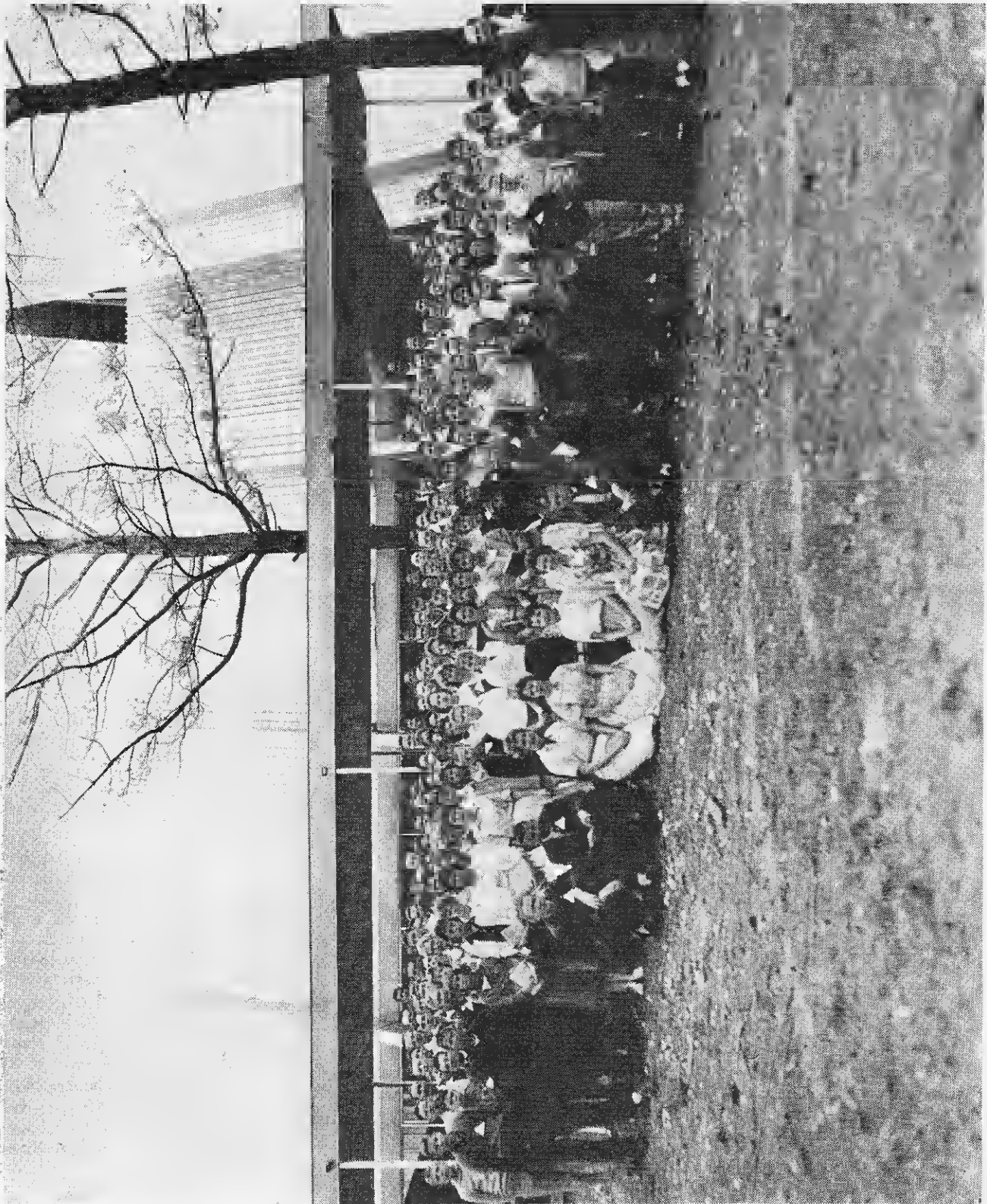
I want to thank you, too, for the wonderful words of appreciation which you expressed to me. I only wish that I could feel that I had been one-tenth as much help and inspiration to you as you have been to me. I shall miss my association with you and will look forward to all Southeast Convention gatherings where I may see some of you from time to time again.

Thank you for your cooperation, and please give as much and more to the new Minister of Christian Education, the Rev. Miss Emilie F. Pitcock.

Annie R. Campbell

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Seventh Annual Pilgrim Fellowship/Youth Fellowship, April 8-9, Pilgrim Congregational Church, Birmingham